

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (New) A portable telephone allowing a call recipient, after detecting a pending incoming call, to respond to the call in a normal-response mode or to activate an originator-confirmation mode to seek identification of the caller, comprising:

display means for displaying to the call recipient, while the incoming call is pending, a call identifier, if any, of an originator of the received call;

an originator-confirmation activator means that is operable by the call recipient, while the incoming call is pending, to activate the originator-confirmation mode, if the call recipient does not recognize the displayed call identifier or there is no such call identifier displayed;

message-sending means which is activated when the call recipient operates the originator-confirmation activator means, the message-sending means upon being activated sending a first message to the call originator prompting a response from the call originator; and,

monitor means for outputting to the call recipient a speech signal from the call originator as the response, wherein the portable telephone allows a call recipient to either:

- (i) respond to an incoming call in the normal response mode by responding to the call without activating the originator-confirmation mode; or,
- (ii) respond to an incoming call by activating the originator-confirmation mode, consider the response from the call originator, and then either terminate the call or respond in the normal-response mode.

10. (New) A portable telephone according to claim 9, further comprising a timer means for measuring a predetermined time after the first message is sent, wherein connection of the call originator is terminated if an acceptable response from the call originator is not received within the predetermined time.
11. (New) A portable telephone according to claim 9, further comprising a normal-response activator means for activating a normal-response mode, wherein activation of the normal-response activator means causes a change from the originator-confirmation mode to the normal-response mode.
12. (New) A portable telephone according to claim 9, wherein only reception is possible in the originator confirmation mode, and both transmission and reception are possible in the normal-response mode.
13. A portable telephone according to claim 9, and further comprising a channel-disconnection activation means for forcible immediate disconnection of the originator if an acceptable speech signal from the call originator is not received, the forcible disconnection taking place after the message-sending means has sent a second message to the call originator regarding lack of reception of an acceptable speech signal.